

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 00433 060302Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W

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R 052018Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0400

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OVIP (THEODORE R. BIRTTON, JR.)

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S TRIP TO THE U.S.

1. REQUEST DEPARTMENTAL AUTHORIZATION TO BE ABSENT FROM POST DURING PERIOD MARCH 11 TO ABOUT MARCH 23, WITH TRAVEL AT PERSONAL EXPENSE. WHILE I HAVE SOME PERSONAL BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO, THERE IS MUCH NEED FOR CONSULTATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES. WILL BRING CLASSIFIED MATTERS AND REPORT INTO DEPARTMENT ON MARCH 12.

2. THUS FAR, MY DEPARTMENTAL CONCERNS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

UN - HAVE PROMISED TO VISIT AND LUNCH WITH MY BARBADIAN (AND UNDOUBTEDLY, GRENADIAN) COLLEAGUES ON MARCH 15. WE NEED CLOSE COMMUNICATION AND UNDERSTANDING WITH DELEGATES.

DOD -- NEED TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION LEADING TO ULTIMATE STRATEGY ON RENEWAL OF BASES AGREEMENT. AS OF THIS WRITING, THE SMOOTH RENEWALS ARE BEING CLOUDED BY INCREASING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS IN ANTIGUA, AND ANIMOSITY BEING GENERATED WITHIN BARBADIAN GOVERNMENT, VERY FRANKLY, BY WHAT SEEMS TO BE "LESS THAN HONEST DEALINGS" ON THE PART OF AID'S EXCESS PROPERTY PEOPLE. OTHER SUBJECTS WORTHY OF DISCUSSION ARE DOG ISLAND, MARINE SECURITY GUARDS, ETC.

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USIA - NEED TO KEEP PERSONAL CONTACT WITH DR. DILLON

AND STAFF. THE ABSENCE OF A DEFINED BUDGET AND THE FAILURE
OF THE PAO TO VISIT POST AFTER ALMOST 9 MONTHS IN OFFICE
LEAVES US FEELING "BENIGNLY NEGLECTED."

AID - SUBJECTS INCLUDE AID OFFICE IN BRIDGETOWN,
EXCESS PROPERTY, AND SDAF.

STATE DEPARTMENT - CONCERNS ARE: IVP GRANTS FOR JUNE-
SEPTEMBER 1976; FY-77; MSG-GOB RESTRICTIONS; ICA APPLICATION;
OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION IN NEW AREAS; INDEPENDENCE GIFTS.

3. I WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR APPOINTMENTS ANY DAY EXCEPT
MARCH 15 (WILL BE IN NEW YORK),
MARCH 22, AND MARCH 23. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE
IN EXPENDITING APPOINTMENTS.

4. HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT ROTARY CLUB OF UPPER MANHATTAN
WOULD LIKE ME TO ADDRESS MEMBERS AT TUESDAY, MARCH 16
MEETING IN NEW YORK.
BRITTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRIDGE00433
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760085-0631
From: BRIDGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760392/aaaadcyl.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR'S TRIP TO THE U.S.
TAGS: OVIP, (BIRTTON, THEODORE R JR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006